

THE WHIFF OF CORRUPTION

Haringey Council's regeneration plans for Tottenham are causing a lot of worry for local residents. Council estates around the borough are being earmarked for demolition, leaving the people affected with an uncertain future.

At the moment the main focus seems to be around the Spurs ground and its planned new stadium. The estates to the east of the ground around Northumberland Park are being eyed up with some 900 homes under threat. To the west of the ground, hundreds more on the Love Lane estate have already undergone a flawed consultation process. The Council is twisting the results for their favoured objective: knocking down the estate and building a 'Stadium Approach' walkway from a totally revamped White Hart Lane station to the new Spurs stadium.

WHO WE ARE LABOUR IN NOBODY WINS

In 1991, Haringey Solidarity Group (HSG) emerged from the Anti-Poll Tax campaign, formed by Haringey residents with a wide range of backgrounds and views. We wanted to create a long-term, vibrant, non-hierarchical group, unlike political parties where ambitions and posturing displace real politics.

We believe in ridding ourselves of the current system which places profit and power before people's needs. This involves getting organised, fighting back and collectively taking those decisions which affect our daily lives, communities and workplaces.

We think people must take control of their community and workplace struggles, support each other, encourage practical solidarity, build the necessary skills and knowledge for those struggles and generate strong, permanent, grassroots networks.

Many of us are involved with local residents', community and campaign groups within the borough. We support workers in dispute, campaigns against public service cuts and threatened community amenities. We are active on environmental, housing and claimants' issues and resist oppressive policing and state controls.

We encourage everyone to share their views at our open, monthly meetings where consensus is the aim. We would welcome your involvement, either as an individual or a campaign group, at our meetings and discussion evenings and with practical activities including distributing this newsletter and producing other materials including posters and leaflets.

If you would like to learn more about HSG, then visit www.haringey.org.uk, befriend us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @hsg_, contact us at PO Box 2474, London N8, phone 07804 599 327 or email info@haringey.org.uk

So what happens to the residents when their homes are demolished? Haringey claims that Council tenants will be rehoused on the site, if they wish, once it has been rebuilt. Where will they live in the meantime? And as far as we know their plans include little or no council housing. They have stated they want mixed community housing which means private homes for sale and shared ownership, both of which will be unaffordable to most if not all, and housing association homes which are more expensive than council-run properties.

Meanwhile Spurs, who pride themselves on their involvement with the local community, have shown their true colours. In the original plan for the stadium, new housing was to be built including 100 council homes. But the plans

have been redrawn with all the council homes removed.

Spurs were also meant to pay £16 million to offset the effects the stadium construction would have on the local area. The thirteenth richest club in the world pleaded poverty and Haringey Council agreed to find the money. This money could have been used for improvements in the borough or desperately needed council housing.

One place they could have spent it was Apex House, in Seven Sisters. At a cabinet meeting in July, it was announced that the Council had sold the building to Britain's largest property developer, Grainger. The sale of Apex House never went on the open market where the Council admitted it could have got more for it. Details of the transaction between the Council and Grainger

were kept secret, with a blanket ban on any reporting during this part of the meeting. We suspect corruption.

At the same meeting it was stated that the site at Apex House could be used to build 100% council housing but, with the cost being some £13 million, it was claimed, there was not enough money.

Is it any wonder that they don't have sufficient funds when they give property away for next to nothing and allow Spurs to not pay their dues?

Haringey Council claim they want to work with the local community to deliver the best regeneration package they can. We don't see much evidence of this. If they are serious about the concerns local people have then they need to start working in our interests and not those of big business.

REVOLTING PROTESTERS

You might not have seen them in the mainstream media, but this summer there have been protests and strikes across London for all manner of causes. Here are just a few:

Public sector workers in London and across the country went on strike over pay. Members of the Public and Commercial Services Union are demanding a pay rise of 5% to keep pace with housing prices, rather than the 1% imposed by the government.

Members of Haringey Solidarity Group visited pickets in Seven Sisters, West Green Road and Wood Green to show their support for workers on strike.

Up to 1000 people marched through east London to demand proper funding for doctors' surgeries, doubling the size of a protest four weeks earlier.

Hundreds of people attended a protest in Westminster against the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), a trade treaty designed to empower corporations

and make the rich richer. Similar protests opposing TTIP took place across the UK, Europe and America.

A couple of weeks earlier, activists from the group Disabled People Against Cuts occupied the green of Westminster Cathedral to call for an end to cuts to disability benefits. It was estimated in September last year that more than 10,000 people had died after being subjected to a 'Work Capability Assessment' by ATOS, the company contracted by the government to try to push sick and disabled back into work.

There have been huge, ongoing protests in London and around the world against Israel's latest attack on Gaza. And people have staged rallies for the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, highlighting the role of working class opposition and resistance to the war.

If we're going to change society for the better, we have to start by getting together and making ourselves heard.

- especially actions in Haringey. If you want to find out more about them, check out facebook.com/LondonBlackRevs or email londonblackrevs@riseup.net

It looks like they are doing a fair bit in south London. If a group gets active in Tottenham some of us would be up for working together if they wanted to.



YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK

We always support groups we think are doing the right sort of stuff, especially when that involves a bit of direct action. So when we heard about a group called London Black Revs (short for revolutionary socialists), we thought we should give them a plug.

When Tesco in Regent Street vindictively put anti homeless spikes on their window- ledges it pissed off the group so much they carried out a night time raid on the store and covered the spikes with a layer of concrete. Result - Tesco removed the studs immediately.

According to the group, they would consider acting against "every

organisation planning to put homeless spikes up". Other targets include "police brutality, institutional racism, the bedroom tax and unfair evictions". Recently they have been warning migrants of possible UK Border Agency raids after a leaked Home Office document about the raids found its way to them.

They describe themselves as "young, black, very political" and fed up with the "lack of militancy" displayed by most political organisations. We totally agree with them on the last bit.

We wish them every success and look forward to reporting more of their actions in future issues of this newsletter

TOTALLY INDYPENDENT

Newsletter of Haringey Solidarity Group
www.haringey.org.uk

"It is well that people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning" - Henry Ford, founder of the Ford motor company

WHY WE HATE CAPITALISM



Decades from now, history books will record these years of capitalism as the dumbest period in human history. They will tell of a system that created vast wealth for a handful of people while millions struggled to survive. A system that transferred wealth from the poor to the rich. A system that promoted hatred of the poor while worshipping the vile qualities of greed and ignorance.

In 2004 the richest 1,000 people owned £200 billion of assets, today they own £519 billion. The five richest families own more than the bottom 20% of the population. Last year alone bosses of top companies got an average pay rise of 32%.

Meanwhile 20% of the population, 13 million people, are living in poverty. Eight million of these are members of families IN WORK. The cost of living has risen by 34% since 2004, meaning households with average incomes are now worse off by almost £1,200 a year.

Almost a million people now use food banks. Malnutrition-related hospital admissions have risen by 74% since 2009. Rickets have risen by 25% in just four years. Public health experts warn that the rise of UK malnutrition "has all the signs of a public health emergency."

This is happening now, in one of the richest countries on earth.

The ruling elite own most of our land, gas, electricity, railways, water and media. Now they want our pensions, NHS, roads, schools and green spaces. They have destroyed the unions, created mass unemployment and are dismembering the welfare state. They make it easier to sack us, make us work longer hours for less pay, force our kids to work for nothing, and raise the retirement age whilst cutting our pensions and weakening our health and safety laws. We are being shafted.

So it's time to get angry, and we need someone to express that anger, as our politicians won't

do it. Someone to fight for the millions of working people who want a decent life for themselves and their kids. Someone who knows that compassion and solidarity are not bullshit. Someone passionate that ordinary people deserve a decent job, home and healthcare. Someone who supports our elderly so they can live out their final years in comfort. Someone who makes sure our sick and disabled can live with dignity. Someone who tells us that the disadvantaged will not be looked down on as scum.

Well, that "someone" is us - all of us. It's time we stood together and said, enough is enough!

ST ANN WOULD TURN IN HER GRAVE

We thought bosses and property developers couldn't sink any lower. Then we saw the plans for St. Ann's Hospital site.

When we first heard owners Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Mental Health Trust ("the Trust") were having consultations on the hospital's future we expected it was to improve services in Tottenham. This was the chance to have the first class hospital we all deserve. Optimism rose when a Trust report promised a "Modern Healthcare Campus". Happy days!

How wrong we were. They want to sell most of the site to property developers for a huge profit. Developers' plans include NO new health services even though 10,000 new homes are planned for

Tottenham. This isn't a "modern healthcare campus". It's a con.

We're not against new homes - we all need them. But there's minimal social housing and NO council housing in the plans. They will claim there are "affordable" homes. But affordable to who? Not most people we know.

Thankfully people are fighting these plans. They have formed Haringey Needs St Ann's Hospital (HaNSAH). They have demonstrated outside Trust and Council meetings and are

demanding more health care provision not less. They want a Child Care Centre, a GP practice, an Urgent Care Centre, and improved mental health provisions on the site.

The Trust and Haringey Council don't want to listen - the latest "consultation" was a joke. At a recent council meeting, local people couldn't question the Trust. These bureaucrats only listen when local people cause a fuss that can't be ignored. Writing letters and signing petitions are a start but we need to get VERY

angry and active.

HaNSAH can't do it on their own. They need our help. So contact the campaign and get involved. Tweet, email and Facebook what's happening. Hassle councillors and the Trust - these people need to be named and stopped. Sometimes "enough is enough". Attacks on our health services are one of those times.

Join the campaign for better services:
haringeyneedsstannshospital@gmail.com
facebook.com/HaringeyNeedsStAnnsHospital
Twitter @StAnnsHospital



GAZA STRIPPED

The recent Israeli onslaught on the besieged Gaza Strip is a war crime. Israel's primary strategy during this offensive has been to render large areas of the Gaza Strip uninhabitable by Palestinians and is reminiscent of the Nakba, the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in 1948.

In Arabic, Nakba means "catastrophe". This massive humanitarian disaster was a result of Israel's ruthless 1947-1949 "War of Independence" in which at least 750,000 Palestinian men, women, and children were expelled from their homes by larger Israeli forces.

Ever since, Zionist leaders have used various strategies to accomplish their goal of taking over Palestine, including:

- Encouraging Jewish immigration to Palestine, with the full support of the Ottomans, British and United States to further their cause.
- Buying up land, proclaiming it Jewish and refusing non-Jews the right to live or work on the land.
- Continuous use of violence against Arabs and Palestinians.

For over 65 years, since Israel's founding in 1948, this profound injustice has continued. As a result, Palestinians are the largest refugee population in the world.

There are many groups around the world involved in direct action to shut down the Israeli war machine that assaults Palestinian people. They call for increasing and escalating these actions everywhere; targeting Israel embassies, consulates, institutions, and corporations. People around the world are taking to the streets, defying police and government repression to stand with Palestinians.

We believe that occupying Israeli embassies, consulates, trade offices, and corporations everywhere in the world is an important part of boycotting



and isolating the apartheid regime in Palestine. These actions are reaching the world's media and public. Israel can no longer count on the silence or the ignorance of world opinion.

Recent demonstrations in major UK cities reveal the gulf that exists between the demonstrators' revulsion at Israeli barbarism and Cameron's wholehearted support for it, whilst condemning Palestinian resistance. Details have emerged of the continuing arms trade between British manufacturers and the Israeli military. The UK is clearly implicated in war crimes in the massacre of Palestinians. Let's remember that, since 2010, the UK government has licenced £42 million worth of military equipment to Israel, including targeting systems and drone components, as well as spending millions of pounds each year on 'battle-tested' arms from Israeli companies.

Furthermore Israel has used F-16 fighter aircraft and Apache combat helicopters containing UK-manufactured components, such as missile triggering systems, to bomb Palestinian towns and villages. Therefore, we should collectively support actions like the two-day occupation of the Elbit arms factory outside Birmingham, which is the leading manufacturer of drones for the UK military and whose weapons are used to kill Palestinians. Together we can make our voices heard to stop this brutal massacre of Palestinians in Gaza.

NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE

The family of Mark Duggan, who was killed by the police in August 2011, have long been fighting for justice.

In early October a court will decide whether or not to overturn a January 2014 ruling by an inquest jury that he was "lawfully killed", despite being unarmed.

Mark's family are bringing a judicial review, arguing that the coroner heading the inquest misdirected the jury by failing to properly inform them of what amounts to "lawful killing". A police officer can only lawfully open fire if they "honestly believe" there is an imminent risk to their own life or to others.

The basis for the family's argument is that following the coroner's directions, eight of the 10-person inquest jury concluded that Mark didn't have a gun in his hand when he was shot. Yet eight of them also decided that he was "lawfully killed"!

The Duggan family is calling for the inquest verdict to be thrown out and replaced with an open verdict, or for a fresh inquest to be held. Meanwhile support for the family remains strong. On 4 August several hundred people marched through Tottenham to demand justice, truth and accountability for his death.

MIGRANTS WELCOME

People held in Britain's immigration detention centres have been fighting back against their imprisonment.

In recent months detainees held at Harmondsworth (near Heathrow Airport) and Yarls Wood (in Bedfordshire) have held demonstrations and hunger strikes.

At the time of writing, the most recent was a protest by about 70 detainees at Harmondsworth, which was broken up by the police's "prisons unit" riot squad. It is suspected that those involved will be deported, a tactic frequently used by the government to dispose of critical or protesting detainees. In October 2013 the Home Office deported five women who had experienced or witnessed sexual harassment and abuse at Yarls Wood.

The most recent protests have

come about over the government's refusal to end the 'Detained Fast Track' process. Under this, asylum-seekers are detained while their claims are assessed.

A judge ruled that the process "carries an unacceptably high risk of unfairness" because of the extremely limited time asylum-seekers have with lawyers to prepare their case. But still the system remains in place.

Britain's network of immigration detention centres is one of the largest in Europe, with a total capacity of about 3,500. There are 12 centres altogether, most of which have been set up in the last 15 years in the hope of deterring asylum-seekers and deporting more people.

People can be detained indefinitely, for years at a time, despite having committed no crime. Numerous people have died whilst in the "care" of guards.

The government has started to take notice of discontent with the system, recently announcing an inquiry into detention that will hear evidence from people who have been detained.

As protests inside centres increase and support on the outside grows, a strong enough movement can put an end to the inhumane practice of immigration detention.

movementforjustice.org
detentionaction.org.uk
migrantsrights.org.uk
detentionforum.wordpress.com

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

The United Families and Friends Campaign (UFFC) is a coalition of people affected by deaths in police, prison and psychiatric custody. They also support others in similar situations. Started in 1997, initially as a network of Black families, the group expanded and now includes families and friends of those who died in custody from many ethnic backgrounds.

- The UFFC demands:
- Prison deaths be properly investigated, independently of the Prison Service;
 - Officers involved in custody deaths are suspended until investigations are completed;
 - Prosecutions should automatically follow 'unlawful killing' verdicts;
 - Police forces are accountable to the

communities they serve;

- Legal Aid and full disclosure of information to relatives of victims;
- Officers responsible for deaths face criminal charges, even if retired.

Since 1969 over 3,000 people have died in custody. That's over 70 a year! Yet, to our knowledge, no police or prison officer has ever been found guilty even though judges or juries have often ruled the person was killed unlawfully.

Every October the UFFC demonstrate in London against these disgusting statistics and to remember their loved ones. This year the demo will be on Saturday 25th October. Assemble 12.30, Trafalgar Square. Let's all be there with them. UFFC can be contacted at: uffc-campaigncentral.net

US VERSUS US THEM

MONOPOLY FOR REAL

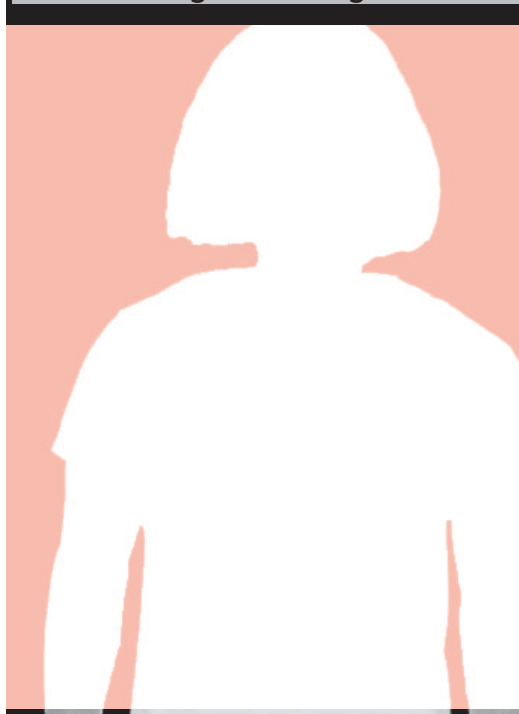
You may have heard that Haringey Council sent four 'representatives' to Cannes in France earlier this year, at a cost of £22,000. They were attending the world's largest annual property fair (known as MIPI) where sections of cities across the world are sold off to property speculators.

Haringey Council lied when they claimed their trip only cost £3,000 to the taxpayer - it has since come to light that we paid £9,000. The rest was funded by developers and businesses. These are the very people councillors should be independent of - surely this is a conflict of interest. They claim they went there to 'showcase Tottenham to attract investors and developers as part of plans to regenerate the area'.

But let's be clear, the primary aim of this event was to enable property developers and banks to make huge profits from the sale of public land and housing estates and to effectively socially cleanse whole communities. Haringey has a history of such involvement with dubious developers - Grainger at Ward's Corner and Apex House, and the Council's plans for Love Lane in North Tottenham. Their attendance at MIPI confirms their intention to gentrify more of Haringey and enable private developers to make huge profits at the expense of working class people.

And now we learn that MIPI will next be in London - at Olympia from 15th to 17th October. We have no doubt that Haringey will be sending another bunch of freeleaders councillors and senior officials in a further bid to sell off more of our land and assets to profiteering developers.

People are now planning action to protest against this attempt to sell off whole swathes of London. The Radical Housing Network, other groups and comrades from across Europe are planning disruption to the event. They will be hosting an alternative conference and demanding truly affordable social housing. For more information see radicalhousingnetwork.org



LONDONGRAD

The bloodletting in eastern Ukraine continues with the inevitable civilian casualties, not least the 298 who died when a Malaysian airliner was downed over the war zone. Western leaders and Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, act out their power play in the form of a slanging match over who is to blame, further inflaming the conflict.

We take no sides in a conflict fuelled by big power politics. But we do take issue with the hypocrisy of those Western leaders who stand tall in front of the cameras posturing as concerned, democracy-loving humanitarians which, of course, is far from the truth. They accuse Putin and his cronies of arming the Russian-speaking rebels whilst calling for hard-hitting sanctions. But for David Cameron, the Conservative Party and their mates, tough sanctions would not only harm Putin but also themselves.

Russian money is pouring into the London property market enriching bankers, lawyers and estate agents. These oligarchs obtained their vast wealth by ripping off the Russian working class and cannot wait to get their money out of Russia. Andrey Gonscharenko recently paid £120 million for a new home whilst robber-baron, Roman Abramovich, owner of Chelsea FC and former Russian governor under Putin, is giving his pad a £100 million makeover. This influx of Russian money contributes to ever-rising house prices, pushing homes even

According to analysts, the British state is the most centralised in Western Europe. Additionally, levels of inequality continue to widen making us one of the most unequal in the region.

These facts are no accident. They are the consequence of a wealthy, tight-knit and powerful ruling class made up of politicians, their wealthy corporate

mates and the cops, among others. They are very fond of telling us they are working in everyone's best interests and creating a fairer society.

But these are just words. In the following articles, we show just what a hypocritical bunch of complete and utter bastards they really are.

THE TTIP OF THE ICEBERG

A little-reported treaty proposal could have a disastrous effect on many areas of life. This is the Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) which is being negotiated in secret by the European Union and United States and may come into force as early as next year.

TTIP is basically a license for multinational corporations to exploit Europe and the USA by removing regulations which currently protect citizens. The aim is to roll back any reforms which have social or environmental benefits: food, healthcare, fuel, product safety, data privacy, workers' rights. It will protect investors at the expense of the less wealthy and tie the hands of government policy makers, leaving corporations to call the shots.

In a leaked letter to his US counterpart, the chief EU negotiator confirmed that public access to all documents related to TTIP will be blocked for 30 years! Even elected parliamentarians will not be allowed sight of demands made on their countries by the multinationals!

Food: The EU has much tougher food safety standards than the USA. TTIP threatens to introduce more genetically modified ingredients, pesticides, endocrine disruptors, bovine growth hormones and chlorine treatment of bird carcasses (banned in the EU since 1997).

further out of reach for ordinary people. In order to avoid possible sanctions and stamp duty, these properties are bought by companies in overseas tax havens. George Osborne might talk tough on tax, but...

Meanwhile Russian oligarchs have donated over £1 million to the Conservative Party since 2010. Those famous rent boys, David Cameron and Boris Johnson, are

Environment: The USA is lax on safety of toxic chemicals. While the EU bans some 1,200 substances in cosmetics, the USA prohibits just 12. TTIP would allow mass export of US shale gas to Europe and allow US companies to challenge bans on fracking in Europe.

Public services: US companies are very interested in the ongoing privatisation of the NHS. TTIP threatens to completely destroy the NHS as a public service. The aim is to either privatise all public services or make them compete amongst themselves and with business and the voluntary sector.

Democracy: Part of TTIP is the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), giving corporations the power to challenge decisions made by sovereign states (e.g. the UK), and to claim compensation where those decisions affect profits.

What we can do: Get informed and question the unions, media and government. Stop TTIP (stopttip.net) is a campaign group which has organised actions outside business conferences in Glasgow, Birmingham and Liverpool. An international day of action has been called on 11th October.

In the football match between corporations and public services TTIP will not only tilt the playing field but blindfold one of the teams. The only sensible response is to invade the pitch.

prostituting themselves in a tennis match with the wife of a former Putin government minister in return for a £160,000 donation. Coincidentally, the Conservative Party is the only major party opposed to a mansion tax. Such a tax could cost their mate Gonscharenko £6 million.

Nice one David, further corrupt the democratic process and keep your criminal buddies sweet, you plonker.

MET POLICE CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

A recent police investigation into the activities of the Special Demonstration Squad (SDS), a force acting within the Metropolitan police, has concluded that it infiltrated family campaigns seeking justice for the deaths or maiming of their loved ones.

Whilst supposedly engaging in surveillance of political groups, the SDS collected and retained vast amounts of information on grieving family members. The report states that the activities of the SDS, "...served no purpose in preventing crime and disorder", and that Scotland Yard, "...disregarded rules and legislation" that clearly set out what they should, and should not, have collected and retained.

The infiltration of the Lawrence family is well-known and another 17 families now know the same awful truth. Harry Stanley, walking down a Hackney Street with a chair leg in a plastic bag, shot and murdered by the cops. Ricky Reel, hounded and abused by a racist gang and, later, found dead. When his mother pleaded with the cops for extra resources for the investigation, her request was refused. The police were too busy compiling ten separate reports on her activities.

A spokesperson for the Charles De Menezes Family Campaign summed it all up, "...the Met were getting information in an attempt to discredit the family campaigns for justice in an attempt to deflect accountability for their own

failings". Remarkably, the outlook of the most powerful civilian force in the land is not to protect the public, but rather: screw you - our number one priority is self-protection.

Not all the families have been named but the report notes that the majority involved were black. The police knowingly and criminally withheld crucial evidence from the 1998 inquiry examining the deliberately-bungled investigation into Stephen Lawrence's murder. At the conclusion of this inquiry, Justice MacPherson labelled the Met police institutionally racist. He was only partially correct. They were, and still are, criminally negligent, institutionally racist, murderers who look after their own.